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EXAMINER

KUMAR, SRILAKSHMI K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/051,977	GARCIA, MARIA LUCIA
Examiner	Art Unit	
Srilakshmi K. Kumar	2675	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 17 is shown to be dependent upon itself. As self-dependency is not possible, appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9, and 12-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Autry et al (US 5,724,106).

As to independent claims 1 and 13, Autry et al disclose an enhanced pointing device (Figs. 9a-c) comprising; a pointing device operable to be communicatively coupled to a computer device (Fig. 1, item 124), wherein said pointing device includes; at least one control activator (Figs 9a-c, items shown are different buttons for operating different devices such as the computer, television, VCR, telephone, etc.), wherein manipulation of said at least one control activator results in a generation and transmission of at least one control signal to at least one electronic device (col. 11, lines 52-60, wherein operating a telephone), wherein said at least one control signal influences the operation of said at least one electronic device, and wherein the influence on the operation does not include enabling a user to interact with a graphical user interface being provided at least in part via said computer device, if said computer device is

included in said at least one electronic device (Autry et al disclose where the remote is used to control a telephone in col. 11, lines 52-60 and col. 15, lines 37-46).

As to independent claim 16, Autry et al disclose an enhanced pointing device (Figs. 9a-c) comprising; an input device that is operable to be communicatively coupled to a computer device (Figs. 9a-c and Fig. 10), said input device enabling a user to interact with an application graphically interfacing with a user (col. 11, lines 24-41), at least in part, via said computer device, said input device including; at least one control activator, wherein manipulation of said at least one control activator results in generation and transmission of at least one control signal to at least one electronic device (col. 12, lines 1-46), wherein at least one control signal influences the operation of said at least one electronic device (col. 12, lines 1-46, operation of the television or VCR), wherein the influence on operation includes at least one of said at least one electronic device being turned on or off (col. 12, lines 1-2), and wherein the influence on operation does not include interacting with said application (col. 12, lines 1-2, turning on and off).

As to dependent claim 2, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein manipulation of each of said at least one control activator influences the operation of a different device of said at least one electronic device (Fig. 1, item 168, the CD jukebox).

As to dependent claim 3, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein manipulation of a plurality of said at least one control activator influences the operation of a particular device of said at least one electronic device, and wherein manipulation of each control activator of said plurality influences a different operational aspect of said particular device (shown in Fig. 1, remote control can control several different electronic devices).

As to dependent claim 4, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein the influence on operation includes at least one of said at least one electronic device on or off, (Fig. 9a, item 912, col. 12, lines 1-2, discloses a power switch for turning on and off).

As to dependent claim 5, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein at least one of said at least one control activator is operable to influence the operation of at least one of said at least one electronic device in more than one manner (the device shown in Fig. 9 is able to control the devices shown in Fig. 1, such as changing TV channels, increasing volume, col. 12, lines 1-20).

As to dependent claim 6, limitations of claim 5, and further comprising, wherein said at least one of said at least one control activator is operable to turn said at least one of said at least one electronic device on or off, as well as to adjust the volume of audio provided by said at least one of said at least one electronic device (the device shown in Fig. 9 is able to control the devices shown in Fig. 1, such as changing TV channels, increasing volume, col. 12, lines 1-20).

As to dependent claim 7, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein said pointing device is part of a mouse (Fig. 9a-c, shows mouse track ball, item 910).

As to dependent claim 8, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein said at least one electronic device includes said computer device (Fig. 1).

As to dependent claim 9, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein said at least one electronic device includes a telephone, and wherein the influences of operation includes answering said telephone (col. 11, lines 52-61).

As to dependent claim 12, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein at least one of said at least one control activator is situated at a location on said pointing device whereby

the chance of accidental manipulation of said at least one of said at least one control activator is reduced (col. 11, lines 42-46).

As to dependent claim 14, limitations of claim 13, and further comprising, wherein further including converting said at least one control signal into a format compatible with at least one of said at least one electronic device (col. 12, lines 40-46, wherein the keyboard embodiment of the device is shown, there are power buttons and channels and volume controls which communication with the TV/VCR).

As to dependent claim 15, limitations of claim 13, and further comprising, wherein the influence on operation includes turning at least one of said at least one electronic device on or off (col. 12, lines 40-46, wherein the keyboard embodiment of the device is shown, there are power buttons and channels and volume controls which communication with the TV/VCR).

As to dependent claim 17, limitations of claim 16, and further comprising, wherein at least one of said at least one electronic device is said computer device (Fig. 1).

As to dependent claim 18, limitations of claim 17, and further comprising, wherein said input device is in part a pointing device (Figs. 9a-c, disclose a mouse track ball, item 910).

As to dependent claim 19, limitations of claim 1, wherein said input device is in part a keyboard (Fig. 10).

As to dependent claim 20, limitations of claim 17, and further comprising, wherein at least on of said at least one control activator is operable to influence the operation of at least one of said at least one electronic device in more than one manner (the device shown in Fig. 9 is able to control the devices shown in Fig. 1, such as changing TV channels, increasing volume, col. 12, lines 1-20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Autry et al (US 5,724,106).

As to dependent claim 10, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein said at least one electronic device includes a copy machine. Although Autry et al do not disclose a copy machine, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a copy machine could have been added to the home entertainment center as it would have been advantageous for copying pictures or documents.

As to dependent claim 11, limitations of claim 1, and further comprising, wherein said at least one electronic device includes a printer. Although Autry et al do not disclose a printer, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a printer could have been added as a personal computer is already shown and would have been advantageous in order for the user to print documents from the computer.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Srilakshmi K. Kumar** whose telephone number is (703) 306 5575.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Saras, can be reached at (703) 305-9720.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srilakshmi K. Kumar whose telephone number is 703 306 5575. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven J. Saras can be reached on 703 305 9720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 305 4700.

Srilakshmi K. Kumar
Examiner
Art Unit 2675

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SKK
September 20, 2003



STEVEN SARAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600